since 1978-79 to educate farmer about the benefit of Scientific storage and use of public warehouses and is also imparting training to the farmers on the techniques of scientific storage and preservation of foodgrains so that storage losses at their level are minimized and demonstrates the spraying and fumigations methods to farmers to control insects and rodents.

Although the FCI does not provide warehousing facilities directly to the farmers yet, it constructs storage capacity at nodal points to manage the procured foodgrains stocks on central pool account. Concerned State Governments also construct godowns to provide warehousing facilities to the farmers at village, block, district and taluq level.

The FCI holds adequate storage capacity all over the country. As on 1.11.2007, total capacity held by the FCI is 239.67 lakh MT (151.47 lakh tonnes owned and 88.20 lakh tonnes hired from various agencies) which is sufficient at macro level. For micro level, space requirement, FCI has proposed to the Government of India for construction of about 4.00 lakh tonnes capacity in various States including the newly declared procurement States during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to successfully manage the procurements/maintenance of adequate stocks for supplies in the Public Distribution System and other schemes.

Besides above, another scheme for construction of rural godowns for providing storage facilities in rural areas monitored by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation known as "Gramin Bhandaran Yojana" is also existing to enable farmers to enhance their holding capacity to sell their produce at remunerative price. Government is providing subsidy @25% of the capital cost of the project. A higher subsidy of 33.33% of the capital cost is provided for beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST categories and for North Eastern States and Hilly areas. Till 2007, a total of 17,099 rural godowns project with a total capacity of 200.96 lakh tonnes having subsidy component of Rs. 577.00 crores have been sanctioned in the country.

Under the National Policy of handling Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains announced in June, 2000, private sector is being encouraged to build bulk storage capacities as per latest technology for storing foodgrains procured by Government agencies which will lead to reduction in storage transit losses and ultimately benefit the farmers. Storage capacity to the tune of 5.5 lakh M.T. is presently being created under Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis in the country.

Diversion of ration by Fair Price Shops

1204. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 36 per cent of wheat, 31 per cent of rice and 26 per cent of sugar meant for Public Distribution System (PDS) are diverted to the open market by Fair Price Shops;

(b) if so, the measures taken to check diversion of rationed wheat, rice and sugar into the open market; and

(c) the number of FPS owners in Delhi booked for diversion of food grains etc. during the last three years, Circle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Diversion of 36% wheat, 31% rice and 23% sugar under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was reported by Tata Economic Consultancy Services in 1998 in its study report on the TPDS. This study covered the period 1997-98.

Subsequently, the Department got TPDS evaluated by PEO (Planning Commission) and ORG MARG. These studies also reported diversion of foodgrains, exclusion and inclusion errors in identification of BPL families and non-viability of functioning of Fair Price Shops.

Therefore, the Department formulated a 9-point action plan, in consultation with State and UT Governments in 2006. It is under implementation by State and UT Governments to curb leakages and diversions. The Department monitors its implementation.

Additionally, a revised Citizens' Charter has been issued recently for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.

(c) As reported by the State Government, during the last three years, 45 FPS owners were booked for diversion of specified food articles. A Statement showing year-wise and circle-wise number of FPS owners booked during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

Details of year-wise and Circle-wise FPS owners booked for diversion of food grains during last three years

Year 2005

Sl. No.	Circle No.	No. of FPS
1.	2	1
2.	3	2
3.	8	3
4.	14	1
5.	16	1
6.	21	2
7.	22	1
8.	25	1
9.	33	18
10.	45	1
11.	52	1
	TOTAL:	32

Year 2006

Sl. No.	Circle No.	No. of FPS
1.	44	1
2.	55	1
	TOTAL:	2

Year 2007

Sl. No.	Circle No.	No. of FPS
1.	1	3
2.	4	1
3.	23	1
4.	26	2
5.	39	1
6.	48	1
7.	55	1
8.	67	1
	TOTAL:	11

Procurement of wheat

1205. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target set by the centre pool to procure wheat in 2006-07;

(b) what was the procurement made during the period;

(c) how many tonnes of wheat has been imported in this period; and

(d) the details of the quantity his Ministry is planning to import from now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations carried out by Government agencie is open-ended, no targets are fixed. However, based on estimates given by State Food Secretaries for crop year 2006-07, to be marketed in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08, the procurement of wheat in RMS 2007-08 was estimated at 151.5 lakh tonnes. The actual procurement of wheat in RMS 2007-08 is 111.27 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) Since procurement was only 111.27 lakh tonnes in RMS 2007-08 as against the estimated requirement of 150 lakh tonnes of wheat for TPDS, other welfare schemes and relief work for natural calamities, etc. the Government has decided to import 23 lakh tonnes of wheat for Central Pool out of which orders have been placed for import of 13.06 lakh tonnes.

Ban on export of paddy

†1206. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIR, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to imposition of ban on export of paddy by Government, paddy produce of about 200 crore value is lying in the mandies of Haryana and Punjab and there is no one to purchase this produce;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government do not procure the non-Basmati rice, specially the Pusa 1121 variety of rice; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.